

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Previously Amended) A silver-colored, tarnish-resistant, corrosion-resistant alloy consisting essentially of:

92.5 to 95% by weight silver, the balance of which is an alloy comprised of:
approximately 24-34% by weight zinc;
approximately 60-74% by weight copper;
approximately 0.5-1.8% by weight silicon; and
approximately 0-8% by weight tin without further hardening elements and blending elements.

2. (Previously Amended) A silver-colored, tarnish-resistant, corrosion-resistant alloy consisting essentially of:

92.5 to 95% by weight silver, the balance of which is an alloy consisting essentially of:

approximately 24% \pm 1.2% by weight zinc;
approximately 74.8% \pm 3.74% by weight copper; and
approximately 1.2% \pm 0.06% by weight silicon without further hardening elements and blending elements .

3. (Previously Amended) A silver-colored, tarnish-resistant, corrosion-resistant alloy consisting essentially of:

92.5 to 95% by weight silver, the balance of which is an alloy consisting essentially of:

approximately 32.6% \pm 1.63% by weight zinc;
approximately 64.7% \pm 3.24% by weight copper;
approximately 0.6% \pm 0.03% by weight silicon;
approximately 1.2% \pm 0.06% by weight tin; and

approximately 0.9% \pm 0.05% by weight indium without further hardening elements and blending elements.

4. (Previously Amended) A silver-colored, tarnish-resistant, corrosion-resistant alloy consisting essentially of:

92.5 to 95% by weight silver, the balance of which is an alloy consisting essentially of:

approximately 29.75% by weight zinc;

approximately 62.15% by weight copper;

approximately 1.35% by weight silicon; and

approximately 6.75% by weight tin without further hardening elements and blending elements.

5. (Previously Amended) A silver-colored, tarnish-resistant, corrosion-resistant jewelry consisting essentially of:

92.5 to 95% by weight silver, the balance of which is an alloy consisting essentially of:

approximately 24.0% by weight zinc;

approximately 74.8% by weight copper; and

approximately 1.2% by weight silicon without further hardening elements and blending elements.

6. (Previously Amended) A silver-colored, tarnish-resistant, corrosion-resistant jewelry consisting essentially of:

92.5 to 95% by weight silver, the balance of which is an alloy consisting essentially of:

approximately 32.6% by weight zinc;

approximately 64.7% by weight copper;

approximately 0.6% by weight silicon;

approximately 0.9% by weight tin, and

approximately 1.2% by weight indium without further hardening elements and blending elements.

7. (Previously Amended) A silver-colored, tarnish-resistant, corrosion-resistant jewelry consisting essentially of:

92.5 to 95% by weight silver, the balance of which is an alloy consisting essentially of:

29.75 % by weight zinc;

62.15% by weight copper;

1.35% by weight silicon; and

6.75% by weight tin without further hardening elements and blending elements.

8. (Previously Amended) A silver-colored, tarnish-resistant, corrosion-resistant jewelry consisting essentially of:

92.5 to 95% by weight silver, the balance of which is an alloy consisting essentially of:

32.60 % by weight zinc;

64.70% by weight copper;

0.60% by weight silicon;

0.90% by weight tin; and

1.20% by weight indium without further hardening elements and blending elements.

9. (Previously Withdrawn) A tarnish-resistance, corrosion-resistance-improving alloy consisting essentially of:

24.0% by weight zinc;

74.8% by weight copper; and

1.2% by weight silicon.

10. (Previously Withdrawn) A tarnish-resistance, corrosion-resistance-improving alloy consisting essentially of:

29.75% by weight zinc;
62.15% by weight copper;
1.35% by weight silicon; and
6.75% by weight tin.

11. (Previously Withdrawn) A tarnish-resistance, corrosion-resistance-improving alloy consisting essentially of:

32.60% by weight zinc;
64.70% by weight copper;
0.60% by weight silicon;
0.90% by weight tin; and
1.20% by weight indium.

12. (Previously Withdrawn) A tarnish-resistance, corrosion-resistance-improving alloy consisting essentially of:

24.0% by weight zinc;
74.8% by weight copper;
1.2% by weight silicon;
0.0% tin; and
0.0 % indium.

13. (Previously Withdrawn) A tarnish-resistance, corrosion-resistance-improving alloy consisting essentially of:

29.75% by weight zinc;
62.15% by weight copper;
1.35% by weight silicon;
6.75% by weight tin; and
0.0% indium.

14. (Previously Withdrawn) A method of making a tarnish-resistant, corrosion-resistant silver-colored alloy comprised of the steps of:

depositing a first amount of silver in a crucible;
adding a second amount of Sterilite alloy to the crucible;
heating the silver and Sterilite in the crucible;
mixing the silver and Sterilite between the temperatures of approximately 875°C (1605°F) and 1010°C (1850°F);
holding the temperature of the mixed silver and Sterilite at a temperature of 1010°C (1850°F) for 30 seconds;
cooling the mixture to approximately 850°C (1562°F);
re-heating the mixture to approximately 980°C (1796°F); and
pouring the molten mixture into a mold.

15. (Previously Withdrawn) The method of claim 12 further comprised of the step of adding a flux to the Sterilite prior to heating in the crucible.

16. (Previously Withdrawn) The method of claim 12 wherein the step of adding a flux is comprised of adding a small of amount of Borax and Boric Acid to the Sterilite alloy.

17. (New) A silver-colored, tarnish-resistant, corrosion-resistant alloy consisting essentially of:

92.5 to 95% by weight silver, the balance of which is an alloy comprised of:
approximately 24-34% by weight zinc;
approximately 0.5-1.8% by weight silicon; and
further comprising a hardening agent consisting of approximately 60-74%
by weight copper.

18. (New) The alloy of claim 17, and further comprising approximately 0-8% by weight tin.

19. (New) The alloy of claim 17, and further comprising approximately 0.9% \pm 0.05% by weight indium.

20. (New) A silver-colored, tarnish-resistant, corrosion-resistant alloy consisting essentially of:

92.5 to 95% by weight silver, the balance of which is an alloy consisting essentially of:

approximately 24% \pm 1.2% by weight zinc;

approximately 1.2% \pm 0.06% by weight silicon; and

further comprising a hardening agent consisting of approximately 74.8% \pm 3.74% by weight copper.

21. (New) The alloy of claim 20, and further comprising approximately 1.2% \pm 0.06% by weight tin.

22. (New) The alloy of claim 20, and further comprising approximately 0.9% \pm 0.05% by weight indium.

23. (New) A silver-colored, tarnish-resistant, corrosion-resistant alloy consisting essentially of:

92.5 to 95% by weight silver, the balance of which is an alloy consisting essentially of:

approximately 32.6% \pm 1.63% by weight zinc;

approximately 0.6% \pm 0.03% by weight silicon; and

further comprising a hardening agent consisting of approximately 64.7% \pm 3.24% by weight copper.

24. (New) The alloy of claim 23, and further comprising approximately 1.2% \pm 0.06% by weight tin.

25. (New) The alloy of claim 23, and further comprising approximately 0.9% ± 0.05% by weight indium.